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# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS  
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June 13, 1949

## WORK HORSE NUMBERS FOR 1948 and 1949 Work Stock in European and Other Specified Countries

World horse numbers in 1949, according to the latest available data, are estimated at 76 million head on the basis of information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This is a slight increase from a year earlier and 21 percent below the 1934-38 prewar average. Generally, horse numbers increased moderately in most of the war-devastated countries of the world and minor increases also occurred in the Near East and the Far East. Decreases, on the other hand, occurred in the more agriculturally developed countries of the world, primarily because of the greater farm mechanization.

Horses: Estimated world total, by continents,  
average 1934-38, annual 1948-49.

Continent or area	: Average	: 1948 <u>1/</u>	: 1949 <u>1/</u>	: Increase (+) or decrease (-)	
	: 1934-	:	:	: <u>1949</u>	: <u>1949</u>
	: 1938	:	:	: 1934-38	: 1948
	: <u>Thousands</u>	: <u>Thousands</u>	: <u>Thousands</u>	: <u>Percent</u>	: <u>Percent</u>
North America	: 18,600	: 12,800	: 12,000	: -35	: -6
Europe	: 19,500	: 16,100	: 16,400	: -16	: +2
Soviet Union	: 19,600	: 2/	: 2/	: --	: --
Asia	: 15,100	: 2/	: 2/	: --	: --
South America	: 17,700	: 17,500	: 17,600	: -0.6	: +0.6
Africa	: 3,100	: 3,800	: 3,800	: +23	: --
Oceania	: 2,100	: 1,400	: 1,400	: -33	: --
Total	: 95,700	: 75,700	: 76,000	: -21	: +0.4

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Estimate included in the total.

The increase in horse numbers in Eastern and Central Europe, the Soviet Union, the Near and Far East, and South America more than offset the decline which occurred in North America and western, northern and southern Europe. The increases occurred mostly in areas of deficit draft power. In some countries, the lack of tractors, tractor parts for replacement and fuel, and the shortage of dollar exchange for purchase of these items also have

contributed to the increase. Exports from surplus countries have aided significantly in increasing numbers in some of these countries.

Horse numbers decreased chiefly in some of the North American and western, northern and southern European countries, as well as the Union of South Africa and Oceania (Australia and New Zealand), primarily because of increased use of tractors on farms. Some decrease can be attributed to the increased rate of slaughter for human consumption. Conservation of indigenous and imported feed for livestock other than horses has been another factor in the decline, particularly in western and northern and possibly southern Europe.

In Europe, horse numbers in Austria, Bulgaria, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands and Norway continue to exceed prewar levels. France, on the other hand, has not recovered from war and requisitioning losses. Increased mechanization and conservation of feed supplies preclude the return of numbers to prewar levels in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Sweden. Most of the other European countries are well below prewar. The Soviet Union, apparently, continues to be considerably below the 1934-38 level.

Some increases in horse numbers over prewar occurred in the Middle East, particularly in Turkey, Iran, and Iraq, and in the Far East some recovery has occurred in India, Japan and the Philippines. In Africa, the Union of South Africa continues its postwar decline, while French West Africa, Ethiopia and Algeria, principally, exceed their 1934-38 prewar level.

While in the United States and Canada horse numbers continue their decline, Mexico appears to be the principal country in North America to increase its numbers. Amongst the South American countries, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay show a decline in numbers for the postwar period, but numbers in Brazil, Colombia and Paraguay, chiefly, exceed their 1934-38 prewar level. In Oceania, both Australia and New Zealand continue their postwar decline and like the United States and Canada are considerably below their prewar levels.

It is probable that the total horse numbers in the world will not rise materially above the 1948 numbers, while numbers in mechanized and semi-mechanized areas are likely to continue downward. On the other hand, it can be expected that numbers in the Soviet Union, eastern Europe, Asia, and some of the African countries will continue upward. (See table and maps.)

#### Work Stock Numbers

In the tabulation on work stock numbers, an effort has been made to list the types and numbers of animals used for draft purposes in specified countries. Although the information in some instances is fragmentary, it



does give some general idea of numbers and in some countries an indication of the trend. War-devastated countries, countries with small farms and some of the lesser developed countries of the world are primarily dependent on whatever animal draft power is available in their respective areas. Some countries have become more dependent on animal draft power because of lack of foreign exchange for the purchase of tractors or replacement of worn-out tractor parts.

While work horse numbers (horses 3 years old and over) in some of the war-devastated areas of Europe have reached or exceeded prewar levels, such countries as Greece, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia are still considerably below their prewar levels. The United Kingdom, Sweden and others, although under prewar, are likely to remain below due to increased mechanization in those countries. Other types of draft animals, particularly mules and asses, and water buffaloes, have shown a slower degree of recovery and generally are further below prewar numbers than horses. On the basis of present statistical data, it is impossible to determine the number of oxen and work cows actually used for draft purposes in Europe or anywhere else.

The increase which occurred in work horse numbers, particularly in the war-devastated countries of Europe, is not due entirely to a large number of horses being produced in those areas, but to a considerable extent to importations from surplus horse-producing countries. Some of the countries that are deficient in work horses are likely to continue the importation of draft animals to supplement their present draft power.

Work horse numbers in the Middle East, in most instances, exceed their prewar level, but numbers in the Far East, according to the limited data available, are still considerably below. Water buffaloes used as work stock in the Middle East also exceed prewar, while in the Far East, except Ceylon, numbers are considerably below. In the Soviet Union, work horses are considerably below prewar, but mules and asses are believed to be near their prewar numbers.

In South America, work horse numbers in Brazil, Colombia, and Chile are now above the prewar level and the numbers of mules and asses in Bolivia and Paraguay also exceed prewar. Work horse numbers in Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa have shown a continuing decline and are considerably below their prewar averages. Mechanization in these countries in all probability will hold numbers below their prewar average. (See table on Work Stock Numbers.)

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This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world livestock statistics, approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. For this report the committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman; Elmer A. Reese, Hazel B. Kefauver, Mary E. Long and C.S. Stephanides.

HORSES: Number in specified countries,  
average 1934-38, annual 1946-1949

Continent and country	Month of Estimate 1/	Average 1934-38	1946	1947	1948 2/	1949 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<b>ASIA (Continued)</b>						
India.....	Dec. 31 1/	2,366	-	-	-	-
Japan.....	Dec. 31 1/	1,330	1,254	1,054	-	-
Netherland Indies.....	Dec. 31 1/	652	-	620	-	-
Philippine Islands.....	Jan. 1 6/	340	-	176	-	250
Siam.....	Mar. 31	364	-	-	-	90
Estimated total:		15,100	12,600	12,700	12,800	-
<b>SOUTH AMERICA</b>						
Argentina.....	July 1 6/	8,290	- 13/	7,238	-	7,200
Brazil.....	Sept. 9/	6,149	6,600	6,700	6,800	6,900
Chile.....	June 1 9/	489	475	470	460	-
Colombia.....	Dec. 31 1/ 9/	941	1,077	1,085	-	1,100
Paraguay.....	Dec. 31 1/ 9/	229	306	-	-	354
Peru.....	5/	400	453	-	453	450
Uruguay.....	April 6/	644	575	546	-	575
Estimated total:		17,700	17,400	17,400	17,500	17,600
<b>AFRICA</b>						
Algeria.....	Nov. 1 1/	176	209	-	205	205
French Morocco 14/	Dec. 31 1/	216	214	155	155	160
Tunisia.....	Dec. 31 1/	108	102	85	-	85
Union of South Africa.....	Aug. 6/	778	687	670	660	650
Estimated total:		3,100	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800
<b>OCEANIA</b>						
Australia.....	Mar. 31 1/	1,761	1,265	1,195	1,165	1,140
New Zealand.....	Jan. 31	274	216	207	204	200
Estimated total:		2,100	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,400
Estimated world total.....		95,700	75,600	75,400	75,700	76,000

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus, for Austria the December 3, 1945 estimate of 264,000 is shown under 1946. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average of 1930 and 1940 censuses. 4/ Census, July 1, 1946. 5/ March. 6/ Census or estimate for single year. 7/ Includes Southern Dobrudja in postwar years. 8/ Present territory. 9/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 10/ September. 11/ Totals for 4 zones of occupation. 12/ Average for years 1930-39. 13/ Census May 10-12, 1947. 14/ Data include only number taxed.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, U.S. Foreign Service reports, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.



HORSES: Number in specified countries,  
average 1934-38, annual 1946-1949

Continent and country	Month of Estimate	Average 1934-38	1946	1947	1948	1949
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<b>NORTH AMERICA</b>						
Canada.....	June 1	2,864	2,200	2,032	1,905	-
Mexico.....	June 3/	2,199	-	-	-	-
United States.....	Jan. 1	11,570	8,053	7,249	6,589	5,921
Cuba.....	Dec. 31 1/	582	408	-	-	-
Estimated total		18,600	14,500	13,600	12,800	12,000
<b>EUROPE</b>						
Albania.....		64	52	-	-	-
Austria.....	Dec. 3 1/ 5/6/	261	264	274	283	284
Belgium.....	Jan. 1 1/	245	297	304	288	265
Bulgaria 7/.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	532	520	549	-	-
Czechoslovakia 8/.....	Jan. 1 9/	654	649	653	630	640
Denmark.....	July 15	553	653	601	574	-
Eire.....	June	429	452	438	421	-
Finland.....	Mar. 1 10/	372	381	385	382	-
France.....	Fall 1/	2,808	2,257	2,354	2,407	2,418
Germany 11/.....	Dec. 1 1/	2,389	2,204	2,214	2,250	2,300
Greece.....	Dec. 31 1/	356	220	242	241	240
Hungary.....	Spring	803	401	464	516	600
Iceland.....	Spring	46	-	-	55	-
Italy.....	July 5/6/	801	675	710	740	-
Luxembourg.....	Dec. 1 1/ 5/	17	15	17	17	17
Netherlands.....	May	293	355	368	334	-
Norway.....	June 20	186	238	225	206	-
Poland 8/.....	June 30 6/	3,149	1,811	2,016	2,300	-
Portugal.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	90	-	-	-	-
Rumania 8/.....	Dec. 31 1/ 12/	1,581	857	-	939	-
Spain.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	808	554	-	-	600
Sweden.....	Summer	615	593	551	497	-
Switzerland.....	April 6/	140	152	147	142	-
United Kingdom.....	June	1,107	834	778	703	-
Yugoslavia.....	Dec. 31 1/	1,212	-	-	-	-
Estimated total		19,500	15,300	15,700	16,100	16,400
Soviet Union 8/.....	Jan. 1 6/	19,600	10,500	10,800	-	-
<b>ASIA</b>						
Iran.....	Mar. 21 9/	328	-	350	350	-
Iraq.....	5/	150	194	-	196	-
Syria.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	58	103	111	141	-
Turkey.....	Dec. 31 1/ 9/	915	977	1,037	1,066	1,100
Burma.....	Dec. 31 1/	57	-	11	11	12
China (22 provinces).....	May 9/	3,772	2,055	2,218	2,200	-
Manchuria and Jehol.....	Dec. 31 1/ 9/	1,948	1,750	-	-	-
Outer Mongolia.....	5/	1,550	-	-	-	-
French Indochina.....	9/	105	-	-	-	40

Continued---

WORK STOCK: Number in specified European and other countries, prewar average and 1946-1948

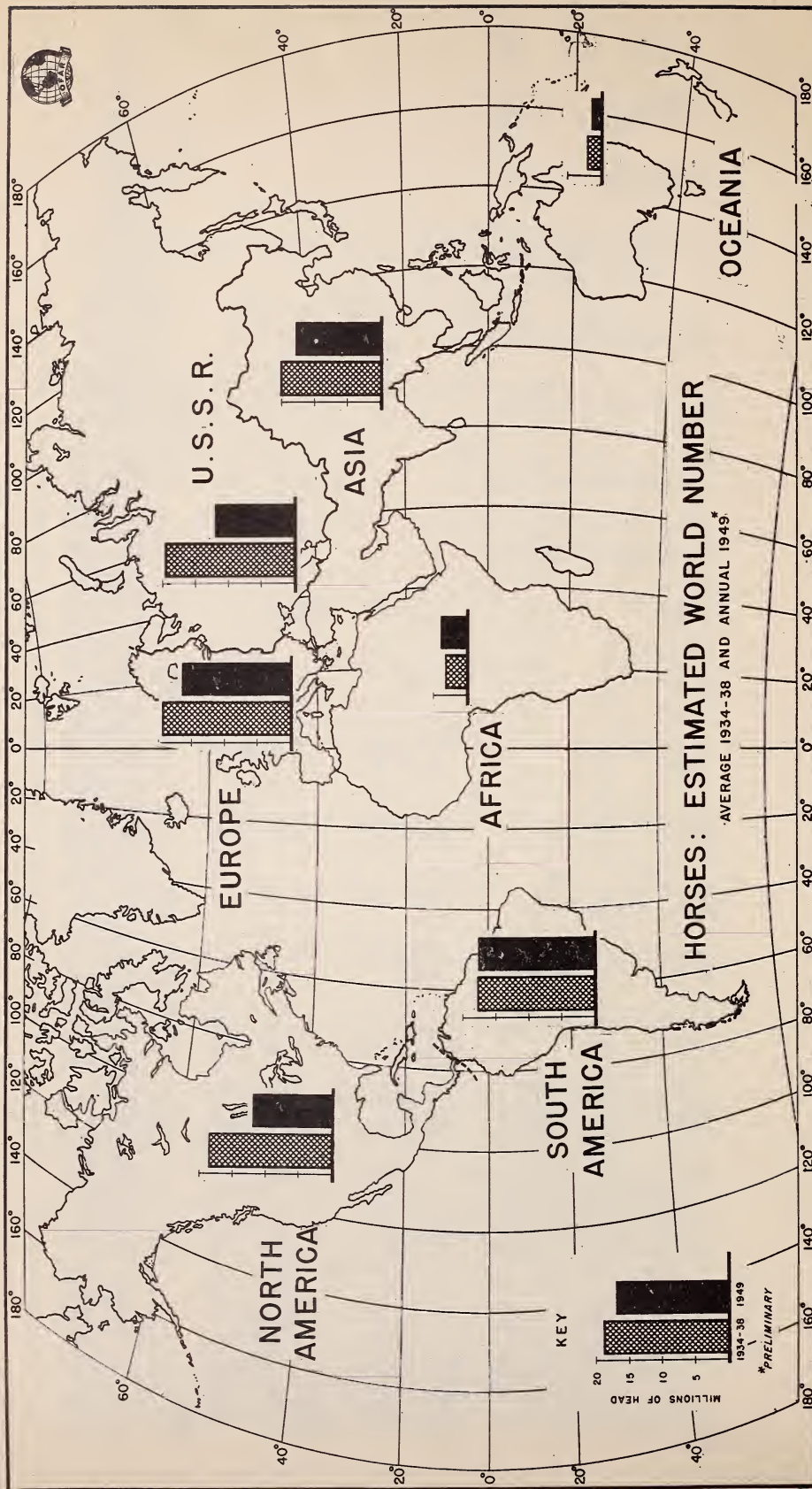
Continent and country	Month of estimate	Horses, work			Mules and asses			Oxen and work cows			Water buffaloes		
		Prewar average	1946	1947	1948	Prewar average	1946	1947	1948	Prewar average	1946	1947	1948
Thousands													
NORTH AMERICA													
Canada.....	June 1	5/ 2,457.5/	2,044.5/	1,912.5/	1,813	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guatemala.....	July	71	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico.....	June	2,199	-	-	3,084	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States.....	Jan. 1	5/ 10,373.5/	7,522.5/	6,812.5/	6,206	4,621	3,010	2,772	2,541	-	-	-	-
Cuba.....	Dec. 31	18/ 326	-	-	79.8/	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominican Republic.....	Dec. 31	5/ 273	-	-	191	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EUROPE													
Albania.....	Dec. 31	6/ 52	-	-	71	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Austria.....	Dec. 31	1/ 224	221	236	228	12	2	3	3	165	21	-	-
Belgium.....	Jan. 1	164	172	146	145	12	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Bulgaria 10/.....	Dec. 31	1/ 442	435	402	402	216	190	209	195	375	295	312	-
Czechoslovakia 11/.....	Jan. 1	456	458	440	423	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark.....	July	425	355	350	340	168	137	127	125	-	-	-	-
Eire.....	June	327	307	315	323	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finland.....	Mar. 1	112/ 307	1,747	1,823	1,800	-	186	206	189.13/	1,041.13/	1,075	-	-
France.....	Dec. 1	1/ 373	426	430	430	331	21	-	5	1,653	1,614	1,661	-
Germany-Breslau.....	Dec. 31	1/ 110	126	1,100	567	448	490	504	431	342	54	59	-
Greece.....	Dec. 31	1/ 744	411	441	441	51	5	5	6.13/	174.13/	114	3	-
Hungary.....	Spring	11/ 34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iceland.....	Spring	11/ 831	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy.....	July	15/ 15/	15/ 831	11/ 41	-	1,370	875	901	960.15/	2,062	15/ 2	15/ 15	-
Luxembourg.....	Dec. 1	1/ 12	221	229	226	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands.....	May	231	184	192	187	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway.....	June 20	156	184	192	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poland 11/.....	June 30	2,582	-	1,826	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal.....	Dec. 31	1/ 71	-	-	397	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Romania 11/.....	Dec. 31	1/ 687	634	634	121	81	101	-	-	-	-	-	-
Russia.....	Dec. 31	1/ 1,323	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain.....	Dec. 31	1/ 466	-	-	1,969	1,969	-	-	16/ 697	175	139	139	-
Sweden.....	Summer	11/ 496	481	450	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switzerland.....	April	11/ 99	102	102	4	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
United Kingdom.....	June	175	585	547	517	71	61	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yugoslavia.....	Dec. 31	1/ 1,017	-	-	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



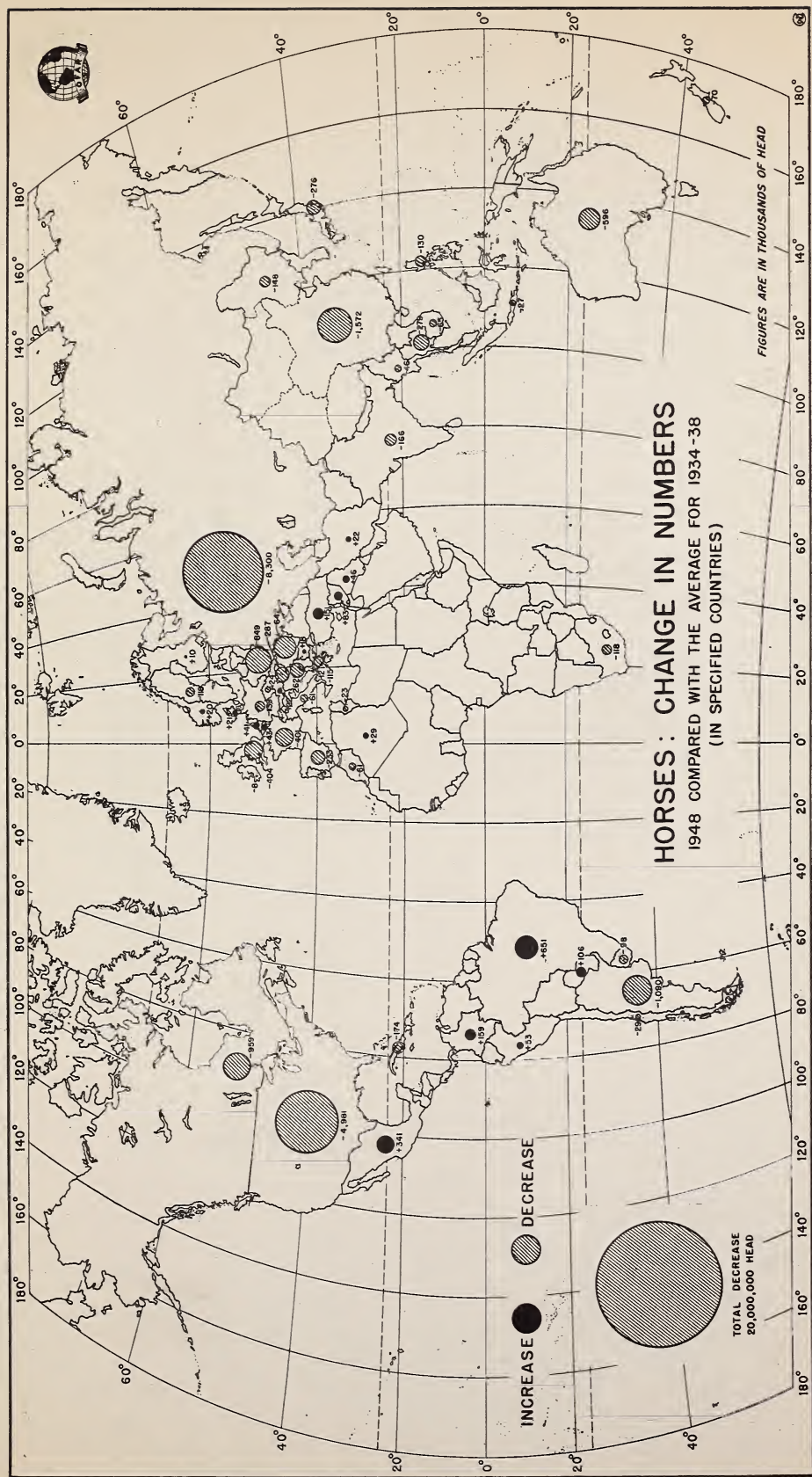
ASIA														
Iran.....	Mar. 21	5/	3285	5/	3501 5/	3501	1,186	1,267	1,267	1,267	1,267	1,267	1,267	80
Iraq.....	Feb.	5/	1501 5/	5/	1111 5/	1111	380	487	487	487	487	487	487	133
Syria.....	Dec. 31	5/	581 5/	5/	1031 5/	1031	1,141	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	51
Turkey.....	Dec. 31	5/	723	5/	1031 5/	1031	1,141	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	899
British Malaya.....	Dec. 31	5/	521	5/	1031 5/	1031	2	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	189
Burma.....	Dec. 31	5/	521	5/	1031 5/	1031	2	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	189
Ceylon.....	Dec. 31	5/	521	5/	1031 5/	1031	2	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	1,199	189
China (22 provinces).....	May	5/	3,772 5/	5/	2,218 5/	2,200	13,961	8,264	9,958	9,958	9,958	9,958	9,958	642
Hong Kong.....	Dec. 31	5/	1,948 5/	5/	1,750	1,750	1,295	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	593
Manchuria and Jehol.....	Dec. 31	5/	1,1	5/	1,750	1,750	1,295	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	9,180
Formosa.....	Dec. 31	5/	1,109	5/	1,750	1,750	2	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,275
French Indochina.....	Dec. 31	5/	1,409	5/	1,750	1,750	2,052	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,275
India.....	Dec. 31	5/	911	5/	921	906	2,052	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,275
Japan.....	Dec. 31	5/	911	5/	921	906	2,052	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,380	1,275
Netherlands Indies.....	Dec. 31	5/	652	5/	620	620	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,732
Philippine Islands.....	Jan. 1	5/	340	5/	176	176	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,900
Siam.....	Mar. 31	5/	364	5/	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,000
SOUTH AMERICA														
Argentina.....	July 1	5/	2,566	5/	6,600 5/	6,800	786	4,000	501	501	501	501	501	—
Brazil.....	Sept.	5/	6,149 5/	5/	6,700 5/	6,800	3,499	4,000	501	501	501	501	501	—
Chile.....	June	5/	489 5/	5/	470 5/	460	93	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colombia.....	Dec. 31	5/	941 5/	5/	1,075 5/	1,085	728	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Costa Rica.....	Dec. 31	5/	229 5/	5/	206	206	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paraguay.....	Dec. 31	5/	400 5/	5/	453	453	407	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peru.....	April	5/	530	5/	485	485	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uruguay.....	April	5/	530	5/	485	485	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
AFRICA														
Algeria.....	Nov. 1	5/	169	5/	170	170	527	575	538	538	538	538	538	—
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.....	Mar. 15	5/	23	5/	20	20	371	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Egypt.....	Mar. 15	5/	33	5/	20	20	371	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
French Morocco.....	Dec. 31	5/	215 5/	5/	155 5/	155	886	934	676	676	676	676	676	—
French West Africa.....	Dec. 31	5/	183	5/	155 5/	155	886	934	676	676	676	676	676	—
Tunisia.....	Dec. 31	5/	108 5/	5/	85	85	1,099	520	—	—	—	—	—	—
Union of South Africa.....	Aug. 1	5/	305 5/	5/	263	263	223	247	203	203	203	203	203	—
OCEANIA														
Australia.....	Mar. 1	5/	1,761 5/	5/	1,195 5/	1,165	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Zealand.....	Jan. 31	5/	169	5/	121	114	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. 2/ For Austria the December 31, 1945 estimate of 221,000 is shown under 1946. 3/ Horses 3 years of age and over. 4/ Averages for years 1934-38, or years available in that period. 5/ Preliminary. 6/ 2 years of age and over. 7/ Total number of horses; classification by age groups unavailable. 8/ Ozon, and to some extent cows, are of importance as a source of draft power, but statistics are unavailable. 9/ Census, July 1, 1946. 10/ Includes Southern Dobruja in postwar years. 11/ Present territory. 12/ September. 13/ Excludes work cows, for which statistics are unavailable. 14/ 4 years of age and over. 15/ Census, March 19, 1930. 16/ May, 1933. 17/ Census, January 1, 1939. 18/ Census, May 10-12, 1947. 19/ Number taxed only. 20/ Number owned by Europeans only.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, U.S. Foreign Service reports, and other information. Data related to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted.









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